

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>I. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. HOMELESSNESS DEFINED .....</b>	<b>1</b>
A. DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS:.....	1
<i>Federal Definition: U.S. Code: Title 42, Section 11302.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Arizona TANF Definition: A.R.S. 46-241 (5).....</i>	<i>2</i>
B. WHO ARE HOMELESS PEOPLE? .....	2
<i>Homelessness Among Elderly Persons.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Homeless Families with Children.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Homeless Youth .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Homeless Persons With a Serious Mental Illness.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Persons Suffering From Addiction Disorders .....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Homeless Veterans .....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Victims of Domestic Violence .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Poverty .....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Public Assistance.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Housing .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>III. STATUS OF HOMELESSNESS IN ARIZONA .....</b>	<b>16</b>
A. CONTINUUM OF CARE GAPS ANALYSIS .....	16
B. POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY JANUARY 26,2000 .....	17
C. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE .....	21
<i>Ethnicity .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Gender.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Age.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Level of Education.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Veteran Status.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Disability Status .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Employment Status .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Length of Time Homeless .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Types of Assistance Received in Last 30 Days .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<b>IV. EFFORTS TO PREVENT OR ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS .....</b>	<b>22</b>
A. STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS.....	22
<i>Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC).....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) .....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Arizona Department of Education (ADOE).....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Summary of Funding of Services to Homeless People through the State of Arizona</i>	
<i>Fiscal Years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-00.....</i>	<i>28</i>
B. LOCAL PROGRAMS.....	29
<i>Emergency and Transitional Housing Beds For Homeless People in Arizona: 2000.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Statewide Advocacy Organizations .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Local Advocacy Organizations.....</i>	<i>33</i>
C. CURRENT EFFORTS .....	34
<b>V. RESOURCES .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>VI. SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>36</b>

## Executive Summary

This is the ninth annual report on homelessness in Arizona prepared pursuant to A.R.S.§41-1954(A)(19)(g). The report provides information about homelessness, including the causes of homelessness, demographic characteristics of people who are homeless, and issues homeless people face. The report will highlight the progress made in the past year in assisting homeless people, current funding of programs to assist homeless people, a summary description of these programs, and a review of state and local efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness in Arizona.

**There are many reasons people become homeless.** The most common factor is poverty, but not everyone in poverty becomes homeless. This report provides information on many variables that contribute to homelessness. In addition to a high poverty rate as a major factor in homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, and a lack of affordable health care, all play a role in the continuing existence of homelessness as a major social issue in Arizona and the rest of this country.

**Homeless single persons** constitute the largest single group of homeless persons. However, the trend is that homeless families appear to be the fastest growing group. Among the single population, at any point in time, a majority is reported by emergency shelter and transitional housing programs as having problems with substance abuse, serious mental illness, or both. In major urban areas, many have recently been released from the Arizona prison system and a majority of these individuals also have substance abuse histories. Shelters are faced with the challenge of assisting these individuals not only with shelter, but also with the services necessary to help them deal with their behavioral health issues. Funding from state and federal sources is extremely limited for this population, due to a priority being placed on programs for families.

**Homeless families** constitute the largest number of persons in shelters and transitional housing, not because they are the largest group, but because there are more beds available for this group. Single female-headed families make up the majority of homeless families. Substance abuse and mental illness is less prevalent among families, although substance abuse is a significant issue. Domestic violence is a major cause of homelessness for women with children and for single women. Thousands of women and children are turned away from domestic violence shelters every year due to lack of available bed space.

**Homeless youth** information is available in this report in compliance with Senate Bill 1180 (Laws 1999, Chapter 328) that required that this report provide estimates of the number of homeless youth, demographics of this population, available programs and services for homeless youth, estimates of the number of youth currently being served by existing programs, and an estimate of the number of youth who sought assistance at a shelter but could not be served.

**The exact number of homeless people** at any point in time is not known due to the difficulty of counting a population that is not easily located or identified. Many individuals do not want to be identified as homeless. However, based on estimates provided by community groups from throughout the state, there may be as many as 30,000 homeless people in Arizona at any given time. These estimates include those persons who are in shelters or transitional housing (5,475 in January 2000), or other locations such as on the streets, camped in the forests, or living in cars or

buildings that are unsuitable for habitation. In spite of an overall positive economic picture in the state, the large number of households earning less than a livable wage and a disproportionate rise in housing costs versus incomes, increase the numbers of homeless persons.

**The number of shelter beds in the state** is estimated at approximately 2,600 emergency beds and approximately 4,500 transitional housing beds. There are approximately 160 emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in the state, with many other organizations providing a variety of other services to assist homeless people. Survey data indicates, however, that hundreds of homeless families and individuals are turned away from shelters every day due to lack of space.

Funding for homeless assistance programs comes from all levels of government and the private sector. The number of beds and services has grown, but the number of new homeless families and individuals continues to put severe pressure on the existing programs and resources. No major new sources or increases in existing funding sources have been identified or created in the past year except through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program which provides emergency assistance to eligible families with children.

**A Joint Legislative Committee on Homelessness, authorized by the 1999 Legislature, began meeting in the last quarter of the year. This committee is charged to:**

1. Serve as a public forum for the purpose of discussing issues regarding current and potential services and programs to reduce homelessness and to assist the homeless.
2. Advise the private sector and the executive branch of government of programs and policies pertaining to homelessness.
3. Review homelessness programs and services to ensure efficient and coordinated use of resources.
4. Submit periodic reports concerning homelessness issues, including an annual report, to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate.

**Issues identified by advocates and service providers include:**

- A lack of affordable housing for homeless persons to move into when they have completed available programs;
- Over reliance on federal homeless housing funds for homeless seriously mentally ill persons that limits availability of funds for other populations;
- A lack of substance abuse treatment funding for homeless substance abusers;
- Insufficient shelter and services for runaway and homeless youth;
- A lack of housing and specialized programs for homeless veterans;
- A lack of shelter beds for victims of domestic violence; and
- The need for enhanced pre-release planning, housing and services for individuals released by the Arizona Department of Corrections under supervision but without housing.



## **I. Introduction**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1954(A)(19)(g), the State Homeless Coordination Office of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) annually submits a report regarding the status of homelessness and efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

This report provides information about homelessness including the causes of homelessness, the demographic characteristics of people who are homeless, and issues homeless people face. In addition, the report will highlight the progress made in the past year in assisting homeless people, current funding of programs to assist homeless people and summary description of these programs, and a review of state and local efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness in Arizona.

Information excerpted directly from outside sources is referenced at the beginning of the excerpted section(s) and printed in italics. References from outside sources can be obtained directly from the source listed.

## **II. Homelessness Defined**

### **A. Definitions of Homelessness:**

#### **Federal Definition: U.S. Code: Title 42, Section 11302**

National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH)(February 1999). *Who is Homeless? NCH Fact Sheet #3*. [WWW document]. URL <http://nch.ari.net/who.html>

*According to the Stewart B. McKinney Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11301. et seq. (1994), a person is considered homeless who “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and...has a primary night-time residence that is: (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations...; (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.” 42 U.S.C. § 11302(a) The term ‘homeless individual’ does not include an individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a state law.” 42 U.S.C. § 11302(c)*

*This definition is usually interpreted to include only those persons who are literally homeless – that is, on the streets or in shelters – and persons who face imminent eviction (within a week) from a private dwelling or institution and who have no subsequent residence or resources to obtain housing. The McKinney definition of homelessness serves large, urban communities, where tens of thousands of people are literally homeless. However, it may prove problematic for those persons who are homeless in areas of the country, such as rural areas, where there are few shelters. People experiencing homelessness in these areas are less likely to live on the street or in a shelter, and more likely to live with relatives in overcrowded or substandard housing (U.S. Department of Agriculture. 1996).*

## **Arizona TANF Definition: A.R.S. § 46-241(5)**

“‘ Homeless’ means the participant has no permanent place of residence where a lease or mortgage agreement between participants and the owner exists.”

### **B. Who are Homeless people?**

Homelessness can affect anyone. Loss of a job, a health crisis, domestic violence, the loss of family support and a myriad of other events can trigger homelessness. Homelessness affects people of all ages and ethnicity. Following is a brief description of the major sub-populations of homeless people in Arizona.

#### **Homelessness Among Elderly Persons**

There is a limited amount of information available about older homeless persons in Arizona. Central Arizona Shelter Services of Phoenix reports that it served 36 persons aged 65 and over during the period of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 (FY 2000). In their *Report on Tucson's Homeless Population, 1997-1998*, David Snow and James Shockey of the University of Arizona Department of Sociology report on the findings of interviews with 1,739 adult homeless persons in Tucson. They found that 18 percent of the individuals were 50 years old or older. There are no known emergency shelters solely devoted to serving elderly homeless persons in Arizona and only one transitional housing program with 45 beds available for elderly persons and/or persons with physical disabilities. The agency, Ozanam Manor (Society of St. Vincent de Paul) reported serving 181 persons during FY 2000.

#### **Homeless Families with Children**

In a January 2000 statewide survey, the Arizona State Homeless Coordination Office identified 323 families in emergency shelters and 469 families in transitional housing programs for a total of 792 homeless families in a shelter on a given day. These families included 963 adults and 1,747 children. This indicates a high percentage of single parent households, the majority of whom are women. Twenty-eight percent of the persons in families indicated a history of domestic violence. Based on data from reports submitted during FY 1999 to the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Community Services Administration by homeless shelters, the Homeless Coordination Office estimates that approximately 13,000 persons in families receive emergency shelter in one year and almost 7,000 receive transitional housing in one year. In addition, survey data specified that 182 families were turned away from emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in a one-day period in January 2000.

#### **Homeless Youth**

In 1999, Senate Bill 1180 (Laws 1999, Chapter 328) established a homeless youth intervention program (a description of the program follows) and required that the DES Homeless Coordination Office include information about homeless youth in its annual report, *Current Status of Homelessness in Arizona and Efforts to Prevent and Alleviate*

*Homelessness.* In order to provide homeless youth data, the Department of Economic Security requested and received funds from the Governor's Division for Children to complete a study to gather the required information. The following is a summary of the report. The complete report can be obtained by contacting the DES Homeless Coordination Office at (602) 542-6600.

### **Definitions of Homeless Youth**

For purposes of this section, the following definitions were used:

- **Runaway Youth:** A person under the age of 18 years of age who is absent from his/her legal residence without the consent of his/her parent, legal guardian or custodian.
- **Abandoned Youth:** (commonly referred to in the literature as "throwaway" youth) Youth under 18 left to fend for themselves because their parents or guardians are unwilling to care for them.
- **Street Youth:** Long-term runaway or abandoned youth up through age 21 who have developed coping skills to maintain themselves on the street.
- **Other Youth (through age 21):** Youth who lack parental support and supervision and are left on their own. In many instances, parents are unable to provide parenting due to absence, mental illness, substance abuse problems and other problems. In other instances, a blended family leaves the child in an unsafe or at-risk position that they choose to leave.
- **Emergency Shelter Beds:** A service that provides immediate shelter to persons who are without shelter or a fixed place or residence. Usually this service is provided for a period of 3-4 months.
- **Transitional Living Programs:** This service provides long-term shelter for a period of up to two years to homeless persons who are sufficiently stabilized to pursue some level of self-sufficiency, but may require additional supportive services. The goal of this service is to facilitate movement to permanent housing.

The focus of this report is youth on their own who are no longer living with their families or are not currently served by existing child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Youth who are adjudicated dependent or delinquent and in state custody are not reflected in the description of homeless youth served in this report. It should be noted that some homeless youth move in and out of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems leaving gaps where they are considered "non-system youth."

### **Services for Homeless Youth**

Many of Arizona's homeless youth programs strive to offer a continuum of services that begin with outreach and recruitment of youth into programs. Outreach and recruitment clearly are critical components since youth are reluctant to seek out services and are often afraid to trust an agency or program with their care. Additionally, these services are based on national models of

best practices and are provided through the direct provision or collaborative partnerships with other community programs and include<sup>1</sup>:

- Outreach
- Screening/Intake
- Emergency Shelter
- Case Management
- Informational and Referral
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Transportation
- Health Care
- Transitional Living Beyond Shelter
- Aftercare
- Drug Abuse Program
- Alcoholic Abuse Services
- Program for Alcoholics
- Treatment for Suicidal Behavior
- Independent Living Planning
- Educational Program
- Advocacy
- AIDS/HIV Treatment
- Gay/Lesbian Youth Special Services
- Recreation/Leisure Time Activities
- Transitional Living for Young Single Parents

### **Homeless Youth Intervention Program**

Senate Bill 1180 provided for the establishment of a Homeless Youth Intervention Program by the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The program was implemented January 1, 2000 in two locations and administered through collaborative partnerships with community social agencies, family support programs and other community organizations, including faith-based organizations. These partnerships provide services to homeless youth who are referred, based on a screening and assessment by DES, and are not currently served by the state child protective services or juvenile justice systems. This program provides 24-hour crisis services, family reunification, job training and employment assistance, assistance in obtaining shelter, transitional and independent living programs, character education and additional services necessary to meet the needs for youth to achieve self-sufficiency. An appropriation of \$400,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 funds the program.

DES contracted with Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, to serve as the lead agency for a collaborative service network made up of three major agencies serving runaway and homeless youth in the state: Tumbleweed, Open-Inn and Our Town. These agencies administer the program in Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai counties.

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<sup>1</sup> Bass, Deborah, Helping Vulnerable Youths Runaway and Homeless Adolescents in the United States, NASW Press. 1992.



## Methodology

Four data collection methods were utilized to collect information on the needs and resources available for homeless youth in Arizona for the annual report and include:

- A **survey** that was administered to 13 agencies representing 24 programs serving runaway and homeless youth between July and September 2000.
- **Site visits** that were made to five programs in both rural and metropolitan areas to gain an in-depth understanding of how the programs operate and successes and barriers encountered in serving this population.
- **Focus groups** that were also conducted with 22 youth in conjunction with four of the site visits to gather specific information on the youth perspective on needs and services.
- **Estimates** of homeless youth that were obtained from the Arizona Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Report, Arizona Supreme Court Juvenile Services Division, Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Department of Economic Security's Homeless Youth Intervention Program and Homeless Coordination Office and the National Runaway Switchboard.

## Homeless Youth Work Group

Community and professional input was invaluable in the design and implementation of this important data collection effort. The Homeless Youth Work Group, established by the Children's Action Alliance in the fall of 1998 to study the issues affecting Arizona's homeless youth, provided guidance and oversight, along with DES, for the data collection efforts.

## Estimates Of Homeless Youth

Complete and consistent data on homeless youth is difficult to obtain due to the diverse characteristics of this population. While no single data source in Arizona provides a comprehensive estimate of the number of homeless youth, data collected by several state agencies were used to measure the extent of the problem and identify areas of need. Each of these estimates is presented in Table 1 and reflects only a portion of the homeless youth population. For example:

- 5,748 runaway reports for youth under 18 were received by Arizona law enforcement agencies in 1999. When runaway reports of youth are compared to the population projections, several discrepancies are apparent which may be indications of underreporting. While 59 percent of the state's population of youth live in Maricopa County, this jurisdiction accounts for only 29 percent of the runaway reports. In comparison, Pima County represents 49 percent of the runaway reports for 17 percent of the child population. Yuma County is also overrepresented in runaway reports (6%) when compared to population (3%). Further study of this data, along with the policies used by law

enforcement agencies to accept and compile statistics would provide valuable information on the estimates of runaway youth in need of services.

- Females make up 60 percent of the runaway reports compared to 40 percent for males.

<b>Table 1. Estimates of Homeless Youth</b>						
<b>Homeless Youth Under 18</b>						
5,748 Runaway Reports in 1999. <b>Source:</b> Arizona Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Report	66 homeless youth under 18 were residing in youth shelters at a point in time (January 2000)  <b>Source:</b> Arizona Department of Economic Security Shelter Survey	1,747 youth were referred to the 15 County Juvenile Courts in Arizona for runaway offenses in 1999.  <b>Source:</b> Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts Juvenile Justice Services Division	367 calls were received by the National Runaway Switchboard from youth in Arizona in 1999.  <b>Source:</b> National Runaway Switchboard.	11,914 homeless children with families or on their own in 1993 were identified by Arizona schools  <b>Source:</b> Arizona Department of Education	1,838 youth were estimated to be homeless at a given point in time.  <b>Source:</b> Year 2000 Continuum of Care Analysis by Maricopa Association of Governments, Pima County and the Arizona Department of Commerce	67 youth were served by the DES Homeless Youth Intervention Program during the first six months of operation. (January – June 2000).  <b>Source:</b> Arizona Department of Economic Security
<b>Homeless Youth 18-21</b>						
182 homeless adults ages 18-21 (representing 7% of all homeless adults in shelters) in shelter at a given point in time in January 2000. <b>Source:</b> Arizona Department of Economic Security Shelter Survey		The Maricopa County Continuum of Care Analysis also noted that only 81 of 452 or 18 percent of homeless youth (14-21) can be served with the existing Transitional Living Services in Maricopa County in 2 programs. The estimated unmet need for Transitional Living services is for 371 youth. For both groups, youth are unserved due to the lack of available beds. <b>Source:</b> Year 2000 Continuum of Care Analysis by Maricopa Association of Governments.				

Estimates of homeless youth 18-21 are less available as state agencies do not collect similar information (such as runaway reports) on anyone over 18 years of age. Beginning in January 2000, the Arizona Department of Economic Security included specific questions in the Semi-Annual Shelter Survey to gather information on adults 18-21 served in adult shelters. In January 2000:

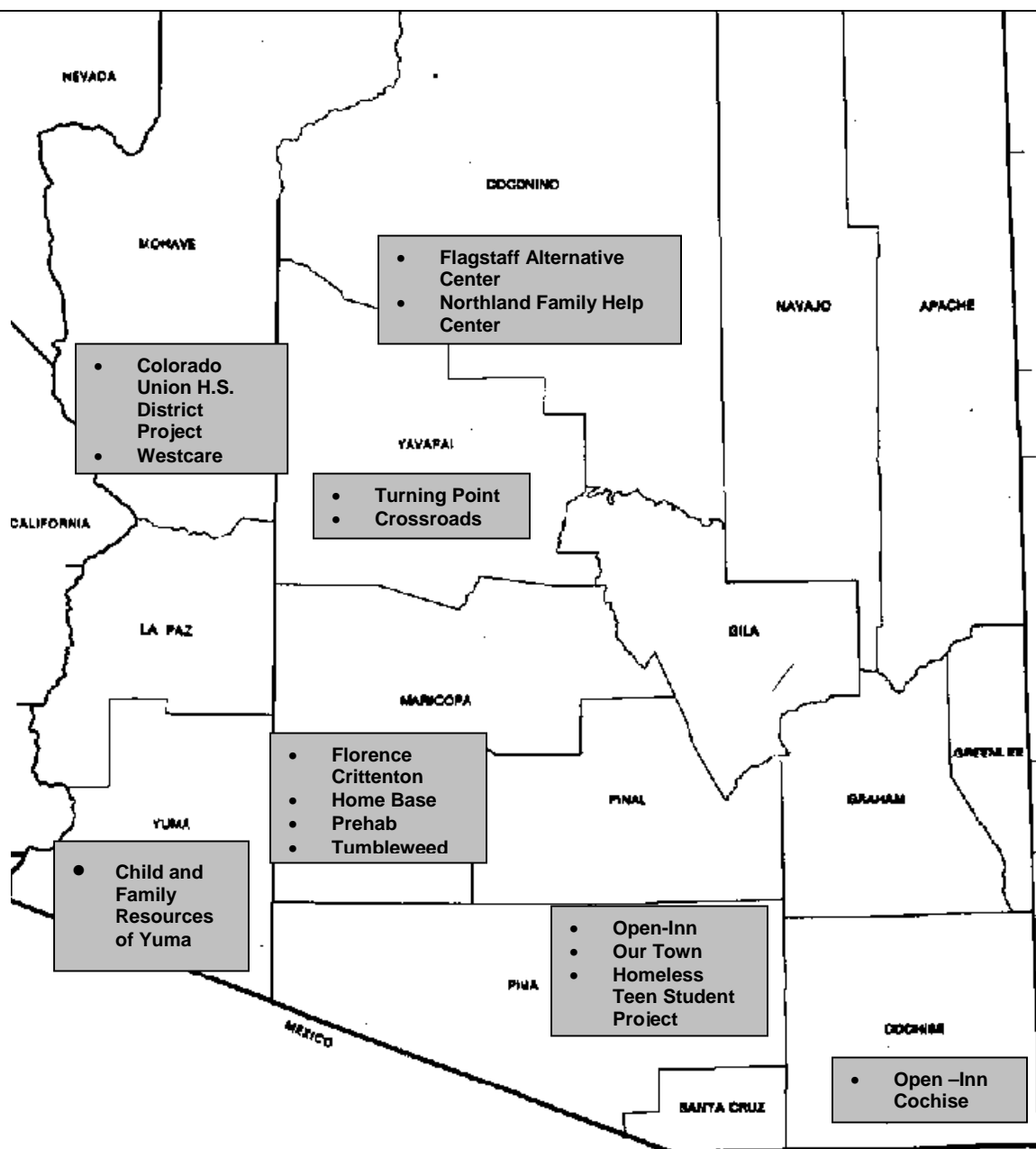
- 182 homeless adults ages 18-21 (representing 7% of all homeless adults in shelters) were in Arizona homeless shelters.

### **Available Programs and Services for Homeless Youth**

Figure 1 (page 7) illustrates the locations of those programs for homeless youth participating in the survey.

- According to information provided by agencies serving homeless youth, drop-in centers, emergency shelters and transitional living programs are only available in seven of Arizona's 15 counties, leaving youth in the remaining eight counties without critical resources.

**Figure 1. Arizona Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs by County  
(Includes agencies participating in Survey for FY 2000).**



- Arizona has a total of 138 emergency beds in 12 emergency shelter facilities for homeless youth under 18. The majority of these beds (75% or 105 beds), however, are reserved for youth in the child welfare or juvenile corrections systems. Only about 33 beds (25%) are flexible “community beds” and can serve “non-system” youth.
- Agencies operate eight different transitional living programs including group residences, supervised apartments and scattered site apartments with 84 flexible “community beds” for homeless youth 14-21 representing 85 percent of the 99 total transitional beds for youth 18-21.

### **Estimates Of Homeless Youth Who Are Served By Existing Programs**

- According to the Homeless Youth Survey, 3,253 youth under 18 were served by 22 programs within seven Arizona counties in FY 2000.
- Based on the agency survey, 2,169 youth 18-21 were served by homeless youth programs in FY 2000. The majority of these youth were served in Maricopa (85%) and Pima (13%) counties because of the availability of special programs such as Tumbleweed, Home Base and Open-Inn.

### **Demographics Of Homeless Youth Served**

The issues facing vulnerable youth have been well documented both by the FY 2000 Homeless Youth Survey and other studies. Survey data indicates that for youth under 18 school problems, parental abuse, family financial problems, parental alcoholism and drug abuse were most common. For youth 18-21, the most common issues were lack of financial support, drug abuse, alcoholism, absence of father and economic problems. Many youth have multiple problems that led to their homelessness, as these issues are not mutually exclusive.

The profile of runaway and homeless youth served provides information to guide service planning and development with reference to gender, ethnicity, referral sources, length of stay, last living situation and length of homelessness prior to accessing services. Youth served by the homeless youth programs had the following characteristics:

- Youth under 18 were more likely to be female (54%) than male (46%);
- Youth 18-21 were more likely to be male (55%) than female (45%);
- Most youth under 18 stay in shelter programs for less than a week (72%), followed by 20 percent who stay 8-30 days and 7 percent between 31 and 90 days;
- Although there are few emergency shelter beds for youth 18-21, youth served stayed between 1-7 days (100%);
- The majority of youth under 18 (53%) stayed in transitional living programs four months or longer and 47 percent stayed 90 days or less;
- More than half (55%) of youth 18-21 stayed in transitional living programs four months or longer and 45 percent stayed 90 days or less;
- Most youth (63%) under 18 were reunited with their parents after discharge from a homeless youth program;
- Providers estimate that 52 percent of the youth served in homeless youth programs have had previous runaway episodes;

- The majority of youth under 18 (58%) entered services directly after leaving their parents' home compared to 41 percent of the youth 18-21 who entered services after living on the street;
- 40 percent of youth under 18 sought services within 7 days after running away or becoming homeless compared to only 14 percent of the youth 18-21; and
- 59 percent of youth under 18 served were attending school regularly when they entered runaway or homeless youth programs.

### **Primary Reason for Homelessness**

Programs reported that 52 percent of youth served of all ages had previous runaway episodes. The primary reasons for homelessness among youth under 18 being served were that they had runaway (64%) or had been abandoned (14%). This is illustrated in Table 2. For youth 18-21, runaways accounted for 31 percent, abandoned (10%) followed by discharge from the child welfare (7%) and juvenile justice systems (7%).

<b>Table 2. Primary Reason for Homelessness for Youth Served</b>				
<b>Primary Reason for Homelessness</b>	<b>Under 18</b>	<b>Under 18 (Percent)</b>	<b>18-21</b>	<b>18-21 (Percent)</b>
Runaway	1,686	64%	256	31%
Abandoned	374	14%	83	10%
Discharged from Child Welfare*	23	<1%	57	7%
Discharged from Juvenile Justice	43	2%	62	7%
Discharged from adult correctional system	5	<1%	32	4%
Discharged from mental health system	16	<1%	23	3%
Family homeless in shelter	127	5%	13	2%
Parent in domestic violence program	69	3%	12	1%
Parent in residential substance abuse treatment	42	2%	30	4%
Other reasons **	229	9%	269	32%
Total	2,614	100%	837	100%

\*Discharged from Child Welfare primarily includes family crisis situations where short-term intervention by Child Protective Services was provided.

\*\*Other reasons include, "family homeless on streets", "family conflict", "family neglect".

### **Estimates Of Homeless Youth Who Sought Assistance At Shelter Programs But Could Not Be Served and The Reasons They Could Not Be Served**

- An additional 1,094 youth under 18 were referred to programs but could not be served. The majority (56% or 613) of these youth could not be served due to lack of capacity (space) and 44 percent (or 481) due to serious behavior problems, mental illness or problems that required more intensive care. The majority of youth under 18 who could not be served were in Maricopa County (58%), followed by 22 percent in Pima County.
- An additional 916 youth (18-21) were referred to programs but could not be served. Approximately one third (36% or 328) of the youth could not be served due to lack of capacity (space) and 64 percent (or 588) due to serious behavior problems, mental illness or problems that required more intensive care. The majority (50%) of youth 18-

21 who could not be served were in Pima County followed by Maricopa (46%) and Coconino (4%).

### **Youth and Agency Perspectives**

Youth participating in the focus groups identified many strengths and benefits of these programs such as accessibility, a safe place to stay, finding employment, getting their GED or driver's license, improved relationships with their parents and giving them opportunities to think and work out problems.

Youth recommended some improvements to programs that included fewer rules, more privileges such as telephone time, ability to stay in contact with former shelter residents, more activities, more assistance with transportation to get a job, expanded space to serve more youth. Youth who lived in a program consisting of both a shelter and transitional living program recommended that these be separate facilities as the disruptions in the shelter were stressful to the long-term residents.

Agencies identified barriers that limit their ability to serve all runaway and homeless youth that include a lack of reliable funding, permanent housing, substance and mental health treatment, transportation, and overloaded juvenile justice and child welfare systems. These barriers may result in the discharge of youth without adequately addressing their long-term needs.

### **Homeless Persons with a Serious Mental Illness**

In a January 2000 statewide shelter survey, the Arizona Homeless Coordination Office identified 657 individuals believed to be seriously mentally ill by the shelter and transitional housing agencies surveyed. Of the 657, 388 were believed to also have substance abuse issues. Over the past several years, Regional Behavioral Health Authorities in Maricopa, Pima, and Yuma counties have applied for and received Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing and/or services for seriously mentally ill persons. At this time, over 1,000 formerly homeless individuals are in McKinney funded permanent supportive housing with services provided or arranged by the behavioral health system. This has had a significant impact on reducing the number of these individuals residing on the streets or in shelters. In addition, approximately 1,000 formerly homeless persons with a serious mental illness have moved from McKinney funded permanent housing to HUD Section 8 permanent housing and continue to receive supportive services. However, it is estimated by the three Arizona Continuum of Care planning groups that there are approximately 2,000 such individuals who are without permanent housing.

Reliance on federal grant funds (McKinney Continuum of Care) has become an issue in the above mentioned counties as the cost of renewing these grants can exceed the funds available for homeless programs through the HUD Continuum of Care funding process. In October 2000, Congress approved the funding of renewals of Shelter Plus Care grants through a separate housing fund, eliminating the need to fund the renewals from the limited funds available through the Continuum of Care process. In addition during the 2000 state legislative session, one-time funding was approved in the amount of approximately \$50 million for the development of housing and services for seriously mentally ill persons. Regional Behavioral Health Authorities are developing plans for the best use of the funds in each of the regions.

## **Homeless Persons with Addiction Disorders**

Of those persons housed in emergency shelters and transitional housing on any given night, a large percentage is identified by shelter staff as having a substance abuse issue. Based on a January 2000 survey, 27 percent of the adults in families were believed to have substance abuse issues, including a small number who also were believed to be seriously mentally ill. Among the single adult population, 67 percent were reported to have substance abuse problems including 14 percent of adults also having reported serious mental illness. This does not mean that such a high percentage of all homeless persons have substance abuse problems. National studies have shown that this population is over represented in shelter populations. Those persons without such issues tend to remain homeless for shorter periods of time and, therefore, are less likely to be counted during point-in-time surveys. Thus, during the course of a year, the percentage of homeless persons with substance abuse issues is significantly lower.

The Arizona Department of Corrections estimates that 80 percent of offenders released from Arizona prisons have addiction issues. Over 1,500 offenders were released to supervision without housing in 1999. Many of them turn to urban shelter as their source of housing. Without adequate housing and treatment these individuals are more likely to re-offend at a high financial and social cost to the community.

Adequately addressing the needs of the addicted homeless population is a high priority in most communities in the state that identified their homeless issues and needs as part of the Continuum of Care planning process required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Substance abuse funding from state and federal sources in Arizona is extremely inadequate to address the needs. For example, Maricopa County, the largest county in the state, has a total of 32 publicly funded detoxification beds and the number of residential treatment beds has been decreasing due to a lack of adequate funding. For example, the Salvation Army Harbor Lights program in Phoenix with over 100 treatment beds closed in June 2000 due to lack of funding. Many rural areas of the state have no detoxification services available and little or no treatment that is accessible to homeless and low-income persons.

The Governor's Homeless Trust Fund Oversight Committee has made the need for additional substance abuse services its number one priority for the use of the Homeless Trust Fund. The Committee has urged the Governor and Legislature to give this issue serious consideration for additional appropriated funds.

## **Homeless Veterans**

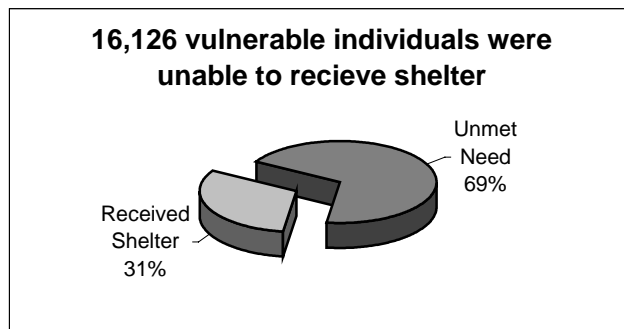
In Arizona there are a small number of private non-profit transitional housing programs for veterans that provide approximately 100 beds. Recent efforts by providers in Maricopa County to obtain funding from the Veterans Administration for homeless veterans has been successful. Additional funding for shelter services and housing is anticipated to be available. In addition, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides medical care for veterans in Phoenix, Tucson, and Prescott. Homeless veterans are served at each of these three locations. In 1999, Arizona established a Department of Veterans Services. The director of this new department has met with advocates for homeless veterans to hear their concerns and recommendations regarding the needs of homeless veterans.

Currently, many emergency shelters and transitional housing programs do not collect information on the veteran status of the adults they serve. However, data collected in a 1996 survey of homeless persons in the Phoenix area found that 25.4 percent reported military service (Johnson, R.M., A Snapshot of Homeless People in Phoenix. Phoenix: Arizona State University, Morrison Institute for Public Policy, School of Public Affairs 1997). A 1997-1998 survey in Tucson found that 39 percent of homeless persons surveyed were veterans (Snow, D.A., & Shockey, H., Report on Tucson's Homeless Population 1997-1998. Tucson: University of Arizona, Department of Sociology 1998). In January 2000, the DES Homeless Coordination Office requested shelters and transitional housing providers to begin reporting on the number of veterans being served. Some agencies did not collect the information, but most of the larger shelter programs did provide the information. Of all adult single men in shelter or transitional housing, 19 percent were reported to be veterans. This is considerably less than the more reliable data reported in December 1999 report, *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve, Finding of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients* (Interagency Council on the Homeless). This national survey reported that 33 percent of homeless male clients who were interviewed were veterans.

## Victims of Domestic Violence

A January 26, 2000 point-in-time survey of homeless shelters statewide indicated that 17 percent of those in shelters came from a domestic violence situation. As noted in the annual Uniform Family Violence Report for July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, staff and volunteers in residential shelters and safe home networks in the Arizona responded to 19,811 family violence telephone calls and

14,466 crisis (i.e., sexual assault, suicide, etc.) telephone calls. Shelter was provided to 7,320 women and children who received 119,116 nights of emergency shelter and 69,563 hours of residential counseling. Non-residential counseling/advocacy was also provided to victims of domestic violence. Individual counseling was provided to 3,373 women and children and 6,989 participated in group counseling. Of those programs reporting, offender treatment was provided to 3,648 perpetrators. During the year, 23,446 women and children requested shelter, which was unavailable to 16,126 of them. The majority of those who received shelter, 60.5 percent stayed 1-14 days, 19.4 percent stayed 15-30 days, and 20.1 percent stayed 31-90 days. Almost half, 49.1 percent, of these women and children were White, 27 percent Hispanic, 13.4 percent Native American, 8 percent Black, .8 percent Asian, and 1.6 percent Other. The Arizona Department of Public Safety reported 157 domestic violence related homicides in 1999.





## **Poverty**

An estimated 15.6 percent of Arizona residents fell below the federal poverty level in 1999, a 2.8 percent reduction in the rate from 1998. The poverty level for a family of four in Arizona is \$17,500 per year. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in a recent study, "Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends (January 2000)" reported that "Arizona has one of the widest income gaps and the gap is widening faster than in other states. In Arizona, real incomes of the bottom fifth fell by 37.2 percent over the decade. Middle income families saw their inflation-adjusted wages fall by nearly 21 percent. Those are the largest declines of any state in the nation." Such low incomes for the bottom fifth of the households in Arizona coupled with rising housing costs that exceed the rate of income gains places increasing pressure on those households that are precariously housed.

## **Public Assistance**

A recently published report, "Arizona Cash Assistance Exit Study" (January 2000, Westra and Routley) provides considerable information on the status of households that left Arizona welfare rolls during the months of January 1998 through March 1998. The study received completed surveys from stratified random samples of 405 individuals that left cash assistance due to a sanction and 416 individuals that left for other reasons, including employment. The survey data indicated that 57 percent of the respondents were working. The average wage earnings of the working households was \$821 per month while total household income, including take home pay, take home pay of other adults in the household, cash assistance, food stamps, child support, social security and general assistance was \$1,439 per month.

All survey participants were asked questions regarding measures of well being for the period while they were receiving cash assistance and after they stopped receiving cash assistance. After they stopped receiving cash assistance, a slightly smaller percentage of families reported being behind in housing costs (37% vs. 41%), being forced to move because of inability to pay for housing (17% vs. 21%), or forced into a homeless shelter after they left cash assistance (3% vs. 4%). A smaller percentage of families also reported receiving subsidized housing (18% vs. 21%) and subsidized utility payments (11% vs. 20%), while a higher percentage reported receiving free housing from relatives after leaving cash assistance (26% vs. 23%). Overall, 15 percent of the families reported being worse off after cash assistance stopped.

Living with relatives is a risk factor for future homelessness, but families responding to the exit survey had not yet reported increased rates of homelessness at the time of the survey. However, data reported by the United Methodist Outreach Ministries emergency family shelter indicate that of 365 families that entered the shelter in FY 2000, 57 percent reported coming from the homes of friends or relatives.

A more recent (May 2000) study, “National Welfare Monitoring and Advocacy Partnership Survey Results, A Look at Arizona Households”, presents the results of the survey for the State of Arizona. Numerous community partner agencies participated in this survey during the first three quarters of 1999; as a result, over 2,900 questionnaires were completed with the clients of those partner agencies. The results reveal several important findings:

### **Findings**

- *Sixty percent (60%) of respondents had received TANF at some point. Of the 60 percent, half were currently receiving benefits, 8.5 percent had their benefits reduced, and 41 percent had their benefits stopped. The majority of those who stopped receiving benefits did so involuntarily. Most of those who discontinued receiving welfare did so within the past 2 years.*
- *Respondents who had never received welfare (40% of the total sample) were more likely to be single men or members of households headed by two adults (dual heads of household).*
- *Current welfare recipients were mostly minority heads of households with minor children.*
- *Roughly, 38 percent of those who had stopped receiving benefits reported they were employed at the time of the interview. Income was higher among these former TANF recipients than among those who were not working at the time of the survey.*
- *Welfare recipients who had their benefits discontinued were more likely to have had their food stamps and AHCCCS benefits (Arizona’s Medicaid program) cut.*
- *Across all categories of welfare reciprocity (never received, reduced, currently receiving, or stopped), roughly 50 percent of all respondents reported at the time of the interview that they were homeless or living in an at-risk situation such as doubled up with family or transitional shelter.*
- *Those individuals who left welfare and became employed generally had at least a high school education, were the sole head of household, and were not receiving disability income (SSI or SSDI).*
- *Respondents who reported they were not working at the time of the survey listed the inability to find a job, childcare issues, poor health (including disability), and low job skills as primary reasons they were not working. Slightly over 10 percent of the total sample reported they were not working due to either a mental health or substance abuse problem.*
- *The majority of respondents indicated that in the previous six months they often turned to family and friends for help.*

Respondents who no longer received benefits reported that there were positive benefits such as feeling good about themselves that were associated with discontinuing welfare. However, 29 percent of those who were no longer receiving benefits also reported that in the previous 6 months they had had greater difficulty paying their bills, making their rent payments, or buying food. Respondents who were working at the time of the survey reported an average yearly income of \$11,000 – \$13,000, well below the poverty level for a family of four in the U.S.

In conclusion, roughly half of the survey respondents who had ever received welfare had been transitioned off benefits. This led to mixed results: individuals who were employed at the time of

the survey were doing fairly well, though, as a group, those who moved off welfare were still at risk for adverse events such as homelessness and inability to pay rent or buy food. Though this survey has some limitations, particularly with regard to how participants were selected to participate (i.e., this was not a random selection process), it yields additional and important insights into the TANF/welfare reform currently underway in Arizona.

## Housing

The Governor of Arizona created an Arizona Housing Commission by Executive Order in 1996. Its mission was to serve as an advisory body to the Governor, the Legislature and the Arizona Department of Commerce, which is the primary agency responsible for housing programs. In 1997, the passage of House Bill 2011 established the Arizona Housing Commission in statute. In November 1999, the Commission published a report, "The State of Housing in Arizona". This report provides an excellent source of information regarding the status of affordable housing in Arizona. The following information is excerpted from the report:

- Thirty percent of income is the commonly accepted maximum amount that a family should pay for housing and utilities. Housing expenses above 30 percent limit a household's ability to pay for other basic needs such as food, clothing, childcare, education and health care. The table below shows what households with various incomes can afford based on the 30 percent guideline. The median household income in Arizona is not sufficient to afford a 95 percent loan on a median priced home, despite low interest rates. In addition, two people living together and each earning the minimum wage cannot afford to rent a median priced apartment.

- Without an increase in income levels or housing affordability, some type of direct housing subsidies from either private or public sources is the only way for families with incomes too low to qualify for a home or benefit from tax deductions, to be treated equally. Unfortunately, there are a large number of households in Arizona who do not receive public housing assistance and lack the income or resources to obtain homeownership.

Housing Affordability by Income Level, 1998 (Based on 30 Percent Income)		
	Income or Wage Level	Maximum Affordable Monthly Housing Expense
State Median Household Income	\$34,268	\$857
Livable Wage (4 Persons)	\$32,400	\$810
Services Job Sector (avg. wage)	\$25,868	\$647
Minimum Wage (2 workers)	\$21,840	\$546
Retail Job Sector (avg. wage)	\$17,380	\$435
Poverty Level (4 persons)	\$16,813	\$420
Minimum wage (1 worker)	\$10,920	\$273

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Arizona Department of Commerce; PCensus; National Priorities Project; Arizona Department of Economic Security, 1998 estimates.

- Arizona is facing an impending housing affordability crisis. Housing prices and rent in Arizona are growing much faster than incomes. Statewide, housing prices are rising twice as fast as income.

- In 1998 only 62 percent of Arizona households had adequate income to be able to afford the median rent and utilities.
- Public Housing Authorities (PHA) in Arizona report waiting lists totaling 43,000 households, twice the number of households currently being served. The average waiting period is two to three years. Many PHAs have stopped accepting applications.

### III. Status of Homelessness in Arizona

#### A. Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis

The Continuum of Care approach is the Department of Housing and Urban Development's primary strategy to reduce homelessness. The Continuum of Care process includes local decision-making that brings relevant community groups together to address the issue of homelessness at the local level. These groups could include units of local and state government, non-profit agencies, charitable organizations, the faith community, housing developers, corporations, neighborhood groups, homeless and formerly homeless people and others.

The Continuum of Care Gaps Analysis is part of this process in which communities come together to identify gaps in the local response to homelessness and then set priorities to fill those gaps. To identify gaps in the Continuum of Care, the number of homeless people, type and number of services, and the type and number of unmet needs are generated. In Arizona, gaps analyses are conducted in each county on a yearly basis.

The table below shows the estimated number of homeless individuals in each county on a given day in 2000, as determined by a local gaps analysis process.

#### Estimated Number of People Who Experienced Homelessness at a Point-in-Time

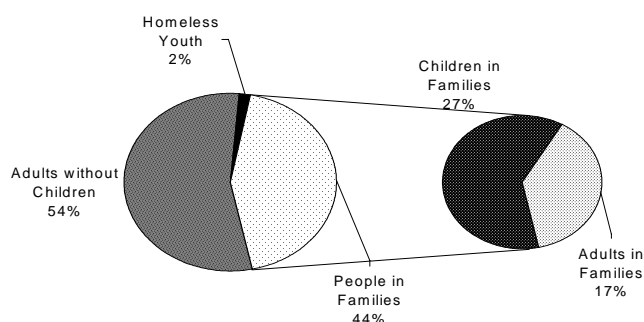
County	2000 Individuals	2000 Persons in Families with Children	2000 Total
Apache	105	187	292
Cochise	144	160	304
Coconino	1,000	1,000	2,000
Gila	125	140	265
Graham/Greenlee	75	75	150
La Paz	70	83	153
Maricopa	8,953	4,627	13,580
Mohave	1,500	900	2,400
Navajo	400	175	575
Pima	2,400	2,100	4,500
Pinal	195	400	595
Santa Cruz	100	100	200
Yavapai	2,750	1,058	3,808
Yuma	694	837	1,531
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,511</b>	<b>11,842</b>	<b>30,353</b>

## B. Point-in-Time Survey: January 26, 2000

On January 26, 2000, all shelter and transitional housing programs in Arizona known to the DES Homeless Coordination Office were asked to report on how many homeless people were housed that night, what their characteristics were, and how many people were denied assistance on that night.

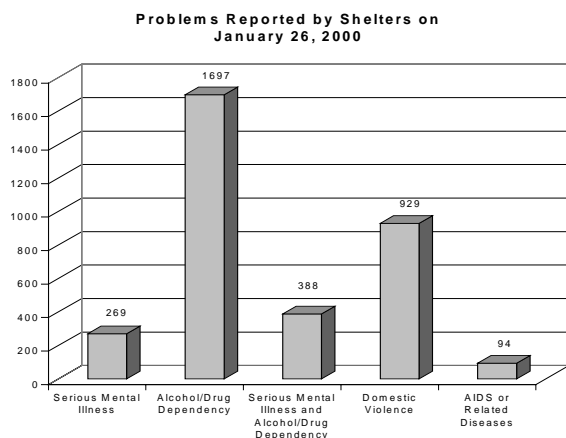
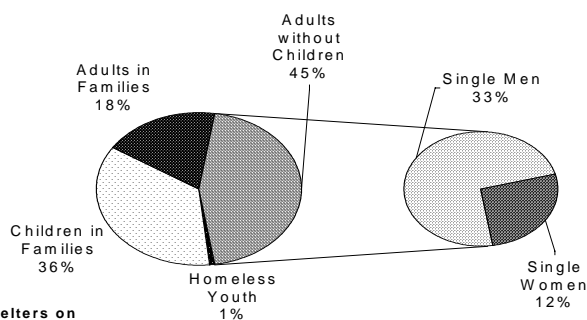
Other information requested included estimates of how many of the housed homeless persons had drug or alcohol dependency, serious mental illness, drug or alcohol issues combined with a serious mental illness (dual diagnosis), domestic violence issues, or AIDS/related diseases. A summary of the data follows:

### People in Emergency Shelter on January 26, 2000



On January 26, 2000, 2,424 people including 1,329 adults without children, 291 families, and 41 homeless youth stayed in emergency shelter in Arizona. In those 291 families, 403 were adults and 651 were children.

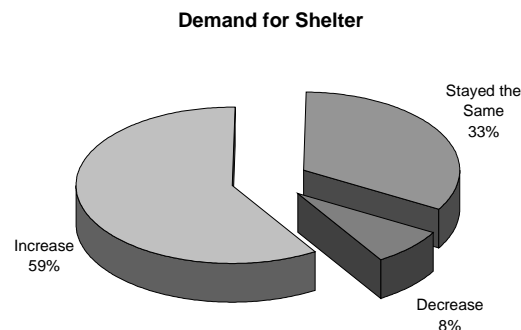
### People in Transitional Housing on January 26, 2000



On January 26, 2000, 3,051 people including 1,370 adults without children, 469 families, and 25 homeless youth stayed in transitional housing in Arizona. In those 469 families, 560 were adults and 1,096 were children.

This chart shows the number of homeless persons, a total of 5,475 who were in emergency shelter or transitional housing on January 26, 2000, who experienced a given problem as reported by the shelters. While the first three categories are mutually exclusive, a person can only fit into one of them, it is possible for a person to experience one of the first three problems and one or both of the last two (domestic violence and or AIDS/related diseases).

Of 130 agencies that responded to the question regarding requests for shelter, 77 stated that requests for shelter had increased compared to the same time last year, 43 stated that the demand was the same, and 10 reported a decrease.



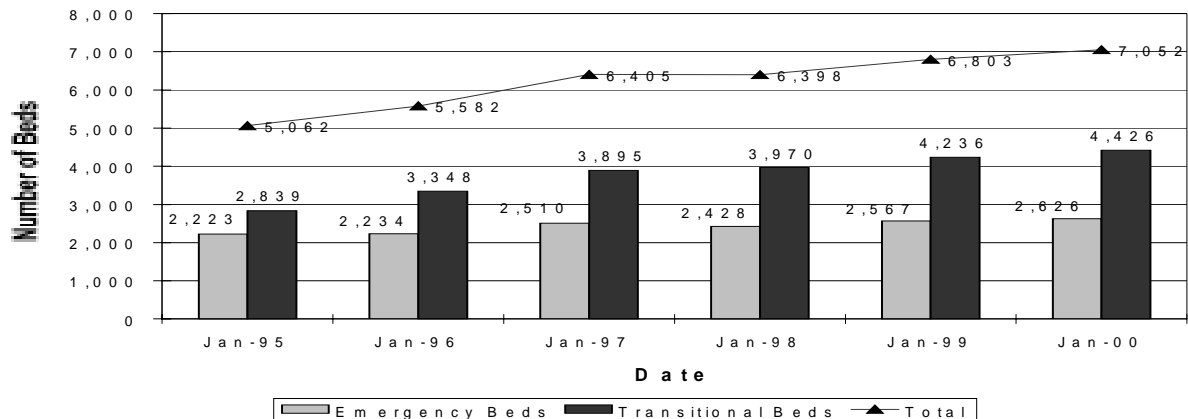
Agencies reported that on January 26, 2000, they had to turn away 191 individuals and 182 families that requested assistance. Allowing 3.4 persons per family, based on actual counts in shelter, and for 15 percent duplication, this translates to an estimated 717 individuals denied shelter in one day in the state of Arizona.

### **Statewide Shelter Survey: Six-Year Comparison**

The State Homeless Coordination Office has completed a statewide shelter and motel voucher survey semi-annually since 1995. Responses to this survey are sought from all known agencies that shelter homeless people. Requests to complete surveys are sent to over 150 agencies in Arizona that provide shelter or motel vouchers. Responses are usually received from 90 percent of these agencies. The agencies surveyed establish their own parameters for the type of clients served and intake qualifications. Therefore, the range of people counted in this survey is limited by the type of shelter. This should be considered before drawing conclusions about the homeless population in Arizona. Regarding "unused capacity", particularly as it relates to family shelter, it should be noted that capacity of shelter units (rooms, apartments, etc.) is average or maximum figures. For example, an agency may have three four-bed apartments occupied by three families with eight people, leaving four beds unoccupied.

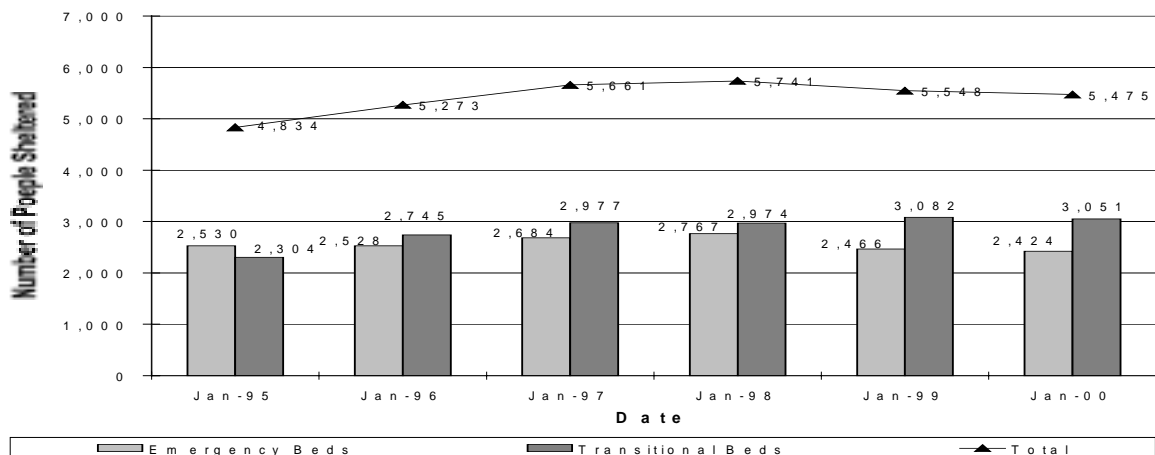
The chart below displays the number of beds the provider agencies have (regardless of whether or not the bed is currently filled) identified as either an emergency shelter bed or transitional housing bed. Motel voucher capacity is not included here because the number of units of shelter that can be purchased is subject to change based on varying rental costs and changing availability of funds to pay for vouchers. Capacity includes the last known bed counts for agencies that did not respond to a specific survey.

**Statewide Bed Capacity: Six-Year Comparison**



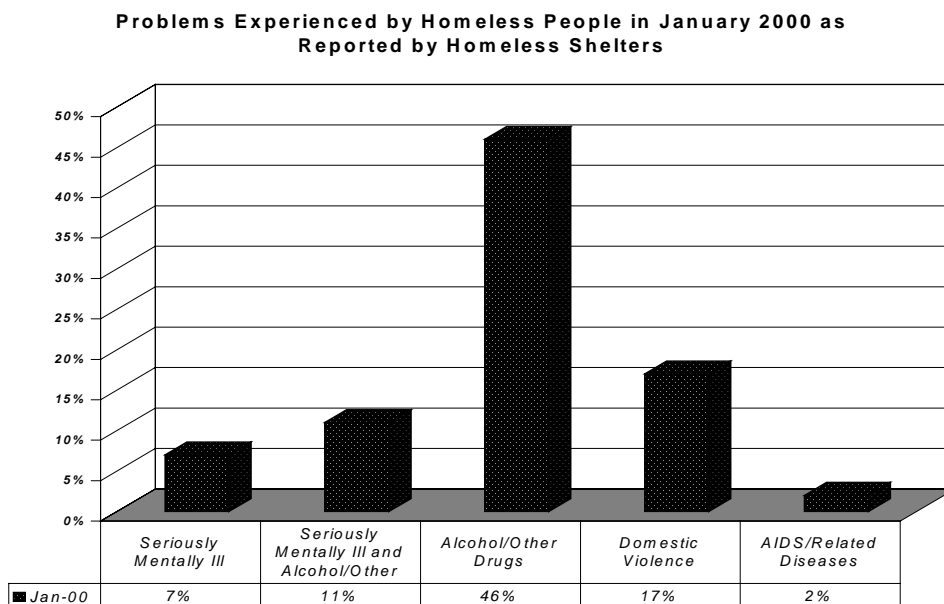
The chart below displays the actual or estimated counts of people who were in shelter facilities or in motels or apartments for which rent was paid by a service provider on the night of the designated survey date. The counts are broken out into two columns by type of shelter: emergency (including motel vouchers) or transitional.

**Homeless People Sheltered: Six-Year Comparison**



## Problems Experienced by Homeless People

This chart includes estimates made by the staff of homeless service providers of selected types of problems experienced by the homeless people who received shelter. The types of problems include serious mental illness; serious mental illness and abuse of alcohol or other drugs; or abuse of alcohol or other drugs. Any one individual can be counted in only one of these three categories but may appear in one of these and one or both of the remaining problem categories: domestic violence; and AIDS or related diseases. When calculating the percent of people experiencing serious mental illness, alcohol/drug abuse, or serious mental illness and alcohol/drug abuse, the number of people is divided by the number of homeless adults sheltered (excludes children). When determining the percent of people experiencing domestic violence and AIDS or related diseases, the number of people experiencing the problem is divided by all of the homeless people sheltered (includes children).



In January 2000, 46 percent of the adult homeless population was experiencing a problem with substance abuse. When dually diagnosed individuals (seriously mental ill and alcohol/other drugs) are added, the percentage rises to 57 percent.

When comparing January 1995 to January 2000 data, substance abuse continues to be the greatest problem facing the sheltered homeless population as well as the shelter service providers.

While the percentage of homeless people in shelter experiencing domestic violence appears to remain steady between 1995 and 2000, the actual numbers are sharply increasing. In January 1995, 682 homeless people were victims of domestic violence. In January 2000, 929 homeless people were victims of domestic violence. This is a 36 percent increase in the number of sheltered homeless people experiencing domestic violence in Arizona.

The percentage of the sheltered population reported to have AIDS or related diseases has been consistently between one and three percent between 1995 and 2000. The actual number of people in shelter with AIDS or related diseases increased 26 percent between January 1995 and January 1999.



### C. Demographic Characteristics of Homeless People

The following demographics are taken from reports provided by various agencies or groups. Each report and survey method is different. A brief description of each report and survey method can be found below.

ETHNICITY					
County/Agency	American Indian	Black	Hispanic	Other	White
Maricopa CAA's (1)	8%	10%	43%	<1%	38%
Maricopa CASS (2)	<4%	19%	28%	<1%	49%
Pima	8%	13%	14%	6%	58%
Yuma					

GENDER	
Female	Male
51%	49%
20%	80%
24%	76%
17%	83%

AGE						
County	17 and Under	*18-23 **18-30	*24-44 **31-59 ***24-29	*45-54 **60-64 ***30-39	*55-69 **65-74 ***40-49	*70+ **75+ ***50+
*Maricopa 1	47%	*11%	*32%	*7%	*2%	*<1%
**Maricopa 2	8%	**23%	**66%	**2%	**1%	**<1%
***Pima	1%	6%	***8%	***30%	***35%	***18%

LEVEL OF EDUCATION				
County	No High School Degree	High School Degree	Some College or Trade	College Grad. Or Beyond
Maricopa 1	58%	30%	10%	1%
Pima	31%	33%	26%	9%

VETERAN STATUS	
County	Veterans
Maricopa 1	5%
Pima	39%

DISABILITY STATUS
Physical Disability
21%
32%

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
Employed	Looking for Work
32%	-
36%	61%

LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS					
County	Less Than a	7-30 Days	1-6 Months	6-12 Months	1 Year or Longer
Pima	7%	14%	29%	11%	39%

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED IN LAST 30 DAYS					
County	AHCCCS	Food Stamps	General Assistance	SSI/SSDI	TANF
Maricopa 1	-	12%	0%	7%	6%
Pima	11%	31%	5%	9%	4%

**Maricopa County Community Action Agencies (1)**-The population reported consists of all homeless individuals (2,858 people in single and multi-person households), who applied for a service from one of the 13 Community Action Agencies operated by Maricopa County between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000. The data in the categories of age and gender is based on the number of individuals served (2,858 people). The data in the other categories is based on the applicant of the household being served (1,040 households).

**Maricopa County Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) (2)**-The population being reported consists of homeless singles who stayed at CASS' men's and women's shelters and homeless families who stayed at CASS' Vista Colina Family Shelter between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000. The total number of people reported is 6,372. It should be noted that the men's shelter serves 326 men and the women's shelter serves 70 women. The family shelter has 30 apartments occupied mostly by female-headed households.

**Pima County**-A total of 2,158 homeless individuals were interviewed at 35 sites in the Tucson area in October 1997 and February 1998. The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act definition of homelessness (see Section 1 of this report) was used for this survey. (Snow, D.A., & Shockey, J., Report on Tucson's Homeless Population 1997-1998. Tucson: University of Arizona, Department of Sociology, 1998).

**Yuma**-Data represents demographics of 1,476 homeless individuals and families who stayed at Crossroads Mission in Yuma between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000.

#### **IV. Efforts to Prevent or Alleviate Homelessness**

The following information describes the funding and other resources/programs available to prevent or alleviate homelessness in Arizona. The first section provides funding and program information administered by state agencies. The next section includes information about local resources and programs. The final section is a discussion of specific current efforts targeted to homelessness.

##### **A. State Agencies**

Several state agencies administer state and federal funds and programs that assist individuals and families that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These state agencies work together to coordinate services and maximize resources. Below is a description of the services provided by agency.

##### **Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC)**

Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC) (n.d./1999). *Office of Housing and Infrastructure Development: Brief Program Descriptions* [WWW document].

##### **State Housing Trust Fund Program**

*Established in 1988 by the Arizona State Legislature, the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was created to provide a flexible funding source to assist in meeting the housing needs of low-income families in Arizona. The HTF is designed to assist local governments and other organizations in providing affordable housing. The HTF receives its money from a 55 percent allocation of unclaimed property deposits, interest on unexpended funds, loan repayments and recaptured funds. By statute, 36% of the 55% yearly allocation is specifically designated for use in rural areas of the State. The State's current funding goals for these funds are outlined in the State's Consolidated Plan, which is updated yearly and filed with HUD. This document is available upon request.*

*Legislation governing the HTF is published at A.R.S. § 41-1512 and A.R.S. § 44-323. The statutes that govern the fund are relatively open and flexible and do not spell out specific policies for the use of the funds in the same manner that the federal regulations govern the HOME funding. The*

*HTF is available to fund projects or programs that are not statutorily fundable with federal dollars and are the best source to utilize in projects that do not lend themselves well to the confines of federal regulations. As a practical matter, policies for the use of HTF in certain activities have been streamlined to match HOME requirements as much as possible without compromising the effectiveness of the fund.*

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

*The Department of Commerce, Office of Housing and Infrastructure Development (HID) administers the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for non-metropolitan counties in Arizona. Approximately \$10 million is available every year to local governments for housing and community development needs. The purpose of the CDBG Program is to "develop viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income."*

### **Federal HOME Program (FHP)**

*HOME is a federal housing block grant program created by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. It provides funds to state and local governments to design housing projects with nonprofit and for-profit developers. The Office of Housing and Infrastructure Development (HID) makes available approximately \$5 million each year to local governments and nonprofit organizations statewide. Other areas of Arizona also receive direct HOME funding from the federal government, the Maricopa and Pima County Consortia and the City of Phoenix (approximately \$12 million). HOME gives states and local governments the flexibility to decide what kind of housing assistance, or mix of housing assistance, is most appropriate to meet their housing needs.*

### **Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits**

*The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program provides low-cost rental housing assistance to many Arizonans. Approximately \$6 million in federal income tax credits is available annually to developers willing to build or rehabilitate residential multi-family apartment projects and make them affordable. This program provides a dollar-for-dollar credit against federal income tax liability for owners/developers of qualifying residential rental projects for a period of 10 years. The credit is intended to produce a cash subsidy to aid in the production of affordable housing and, in return, the developer agrees to restrict rents for a period of time. The federal tax credits finance approximately 60 percent of overall construction costs. To date, more than \$44 million in tax credits has been allocated assisting in the creation of 10,000 units of low-income housing. These projects have leveraged more than \$500 million in Arizona's construction industry.*

### **Special Needs Housing**

*The Special Needs Housing Office helps develop affordable housing opportunities for a variety of special-needs groups. The office administers HUD grants and provides planning, technical assistance and program advocacy services to organizations and agencies serving low-income special-needs groups. HID currently administers nine HUD grants providing supportive housing to over 1,000 homeless persons with serious mental illness throughout Arizona, with an annual expenditure for housing and services of more than \$10 million. The program works to coordinate all resources, including federal, state and local, to increase emphasis and funding for special-needs housing. Special-needs groups identified include, but are not limited to, serious mental illness, chronic substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, homeless, victims of domestic violence, developmentally disabled, farm workers and frail elderly.*

**State Public Housing Authority**

*HID is a new state Public Housing Authority (PHA) formed by the Legislature in 1992. The state PHA was created to ensure that federal Section 8 rental assistance resources were made available to portions of Arizona not served by local PHAs. Many rural areas of the state are in desperate need of housing assistance but without local PHAs to provide it. This program allows the state to seek the funds needed to serve these areas. HID currently administers 39 Section 8 certificates and vouchers in Yavapai and Graham Counties. It is estimated that this \$1.2 million program will help 120 low-income households with rental assistance over the next five years.*

**Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES)****Domestic Violence Shelter Fund (DVSF)**

DES receives a percentage of all court filing fees collected by Arizona counties. These funds are used to provide emergency domestic violence shelter, advocacy and support services.

**Domestic Violence Prevention (DVP)**

DES contracts these state appropriated funds for such services as counseling, shelter, transportation, transitional housing and childcare.

**Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)**

The ESG program was established under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers the program. The primary intent of ESG is to provide funds for renovation/rehabilitation and operating expenses for homeless shelters (funding of staff cost are not allowed). However, some prevention services (prevention of eviction or utility shutoff) and essential social services are allowed.

**Homeless Trust Fund (HTF)**

The legislation that established this fund made available \$200,000 the first year (1991) and the amount of interest earned on the \$800,000 trust fund base in subsequent years. Homeless services provided with these funds are based on the priorities set by the Homes Trust Fund Oversight Committee. In FY 2000, the top priorities were emergency shelter/transitional housing, employment-related services, and the prevention of homelessness.

**Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)**

SSBG is also known as Title XX. This fund source is not homeless specific. However, part of the available funds, some of which are planned at a local level and some at a department (DES) level, have been planned specifically for service to domestic violence victims and some more generally for homeless people. Crisis intervention (which includes shelter and counseling ) is provided for domestic violence victims. Services funded for homeless people in general include crisis intervention, case management, and transportation. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) administers the SSBG funds.

**Homeless Shelter Line Item**

These funds are appropriated for homeless shelter as a line item in the DES budget. The funds are contracted out to pay for the cost of shelter facilities and services and to provide motel and hotel vouchers.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

The TANF funds are available through the Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, which are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The state must submit amendments to the State Plan for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in order to establish a TANF emergency services plan. Although the federal regulations do not specify that eligible clients be homeless, they do allow a State TANF Plan, or a portion of the Plan, to be limited to a type of problem such as homelessness. TANF requires a maintenance of effort match from the state. Therefore, Arizona has used a portion of the state appropriated funds for homeless people assigned to DES to match TANF through a plan that allows shelter (at a facility or by voucher), prevention, move-in assistance and case management service. DES is currently reviewing options to expand the range of services available for homeless and near homeless families.

**Note:** In addition to the above listed fund sources, DES serves homeless persons with other fund sources/programs, which are not limited to homeless persons. These services include TANF Cash Assistance, General Assistance, Short Term Crisis Services, Food Stamps, Job Services and Workforce Investment Act.

**Homeless Coordination Office**

The Arizona State Homeless Coordination Office was created in 1991 by A.R.S §41-1954 (A) which establishes “an office to address the issue of homelessness and to provide coordination and assistance to public and private non-profit organizations which prevent homelessness or aid homeless individuals and families throughout this state. These activities shall include:

1. Promoting and participating in planning for the prevention of homelessness and the development of services to homeless persons.
2. Identifying and developing strategies for resolving barriers in state agency service delivery systems that inhibit the provision and coordination of appropriate services to homeless persons and persons in danger of being homeless.
3. Assisting in the coordination of the activities of federal, state and local governments and the private sector which prevent homelessness or provide assistance to homeless people.
4. Assisting in obtaining and increasing funding from all appropriate sources to prevent homelessness or assist in alleviating homelessness.
5. Serving as a clearinghouse on information regarding funding and services available to assist homeless persons and persons in danger of being homeless.

6. Developing an annual state comprehensive homeless assistance plan to prevent and alleviate homelessness.
7. Submitting an annual report by January 1, 1992, and each year thereafter to the Governor, the President of Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of homelessness and efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness.”

### **Arizona Department of Education (ADOE)**

U.S. Department of Education (DOE) (n.d./1999). *Guide to U.S. Department of Education Programs and Resources*. [WWW document].

#### ***Education for Homeless Children and Youth—Grants for State and Local Activities***

*Formula grants are made to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico based on each state’s share of Title I funds. The Outlying Areas and the Bureau of Indian Affairs also receive funds. Among other things, the program supports an Office of Coordination of Education of Homeless Children and Youth in each state, which gathers comprehensive information about homeless children and youth and impediments to their regular attendance at school. These grants also help state education agencies to ensure that homeless children, including preschool and youth, have equal access to free appropriate public education. States must review and revise laws and practices that impede such equal access. States are required to have an approved plan for addressing problems associated with the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children. States must make subgrants to local education agencies to facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth. This includes addressing problems caused by transportation issues, immunization and residency requirements, lack of birth certificates and school records, and guardianship issues.*

*With subgrant funds, local education agencies offer such activities as coordination and collaboration with other state agencies to provide comprehensive services to homeless children and youth and their families, and expedited evaluations of homeless children’s needs to help facilitate enrollment, attendance, and success in school.*

### **Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)**

#### **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)**

*PATH Formula Grant Program funds community-based programs to combat homelessness in every American state and territories. PATH provides a variety of treatment formula grant awards to States for homeless people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance abuse problems, including treatment, support services in residential settings, and coordination of services and housing.*

*Using formula grants, the PATH program provides funds to each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four U.S. Territories to support service delivery to individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless...*

*Department of Health and Human Services, (n.d/1999). Homelessness Programs in HHS.*

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) provides funding to agencies in Maricopa, Pima, and Coconino counties to operate PATH program.

**Shelter Care Plus**

The Shelter Care Plus program provides rental assistance that, when combined with social services, provides supportive housing for homeless people with disabilities and their families. This program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Division of Behavioral Health Services of the Arizona Department of Health Services has the responsibility to administer services for persons with serious mental illness. State appropriated funds are used to provide services to approximately 1,000 seriously mentally ill persons who receive housing subsidies provided by the Shelter Plus Care program. The Shelter Plus Care housing program is administered by the Arizona Department of Commerce.

**Summary of Funding of Services to Homeless People  
Through the State of Arizona  
Fiscal Years, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-00**

\*Amounts are estimates and/or contracted funds

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
<b>1. AZ DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY (ADES)</b>			
Homeless Shelter Fund (State)	\$1,155,400	\$1,155,400	\$1,155,400
Homeless Trust Fund	54,000	49,000	47,000
Emergency Shelter Grant (HUD)	479,900	715,400	686,000
Social Services Block Grant (Domestic Violence) (HHS)	736,100	699,500	657,500
Social Services Block Grant (HHS)	565,300	508,700	588,700
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) (HHS)	1,948,400	*3,449,100	3,449,100
1/ Domestic Violence Shelter Fund	1,085,500	1,294,900	1,444,200
SAFAH (HUD)	233,600	0	0
SHP (HUD)	379,500	0	0
Domestic Violence Prevention (State)	*1,000,000	*1,000,000	*1,300,000
<b>SUBTOTAL DES</b>	<b>\$7,637,700</b>	<b>\$8,872,000</b>	<b>\$9,327,900</b>
*revised			
<b>2. AZ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (ADHS)</b>			
State Appropriation (Seriously Mentally Ill) 2/	\$5,700,000	\$5,573,300	\$6,303,900
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (HUD)	300,000	314,000	314,000
Family Violence Prevention (HHS)	460,300	460,300	580,000
<b>SUBTOTAL DHS</b>	<b>\$6,460,300</b>	<b>\$6,347,600</b>	<b>\$7,197,900</b>
<b>3. AZ DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ADE)</b>			
Education for Homeless Youth	383,900	444,700	442,700
<b>SUBTOTAL ADE</b>	<b>\$383,900</b>	<b>\$444,700</b>	<b>\$442,700</b>
<b>4. AZ DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (ADOC)</b>			
HOME(HUD)	\$1,095,000	\$400,000	\$247,500
Arizona Housing Trust Fund	370,800	1,827,900	2,283,300
Permanent Housing (HUD) 3/	5,600,000	5,468,700	6,199,200
<b>SUBTOTAL ADOC</b>	<b>\$7,065,800</b>	<b>\$7,696,600</b>	<b>\$8,730,000</b>
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,547,700</b>	<b>\$23,360,900</b>	<b>\$25,698,500</b>

1/ Some TANF program funds may be used to assist homeless or near-homeless persons, but are not classified as homeless assistance for budget purposes and are not shown here.

2/ The amounts are estimated for 12-month periods. The amounts are primarily DHS match funds for PATH and HUD grants for Permanent Housing.

3/ The amounts are based on HUD Permanent Housing and Shelter Plus Care grants. The amounts are estimated for 12-month periods.



## **B. Local Programs**

Local governments and non-profit agencies in Arizona play a major role in addressing homelessness. County and city governments provide funding and staff to support homeless assistance programs in their jurisdictions. This includes administration of federal grants that address homelessness as well as other federal funds that may be used for those purposes, such as the Community Development Block grant. Some local governments appropriate funds for homeless programs. The City of Phoenix has authorized a homeless coordinator. The City of Phoenix has also served as the grantee on behalf of agencies applying for Stewart B. McKinney homeless funding and has also received direct grants to operate programs. The City of Tucson and Pima County play significant roles in the McKinney grant application process and provide support to the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless. City and county governments that operate Community Action Programs play a major role in providing assistance to households in crisis such as eviction prevention assistance and move-in assistance to those who are already homeless. There are also a number of Community Action Programs that are operated by non-profit organizations that provide the same types of assistance as government sponsored Community Action Programs.

Local non-profit providers of services to homeless persons are the primary source of emergency shelter and transitional housing for all of the homeless sub-populations identified in this report. Virtually all of these beds are provided by local non-profit agencies. A review of the data available to the DES Homeless Coordination Office indicates that there are at least 200 agencies that assist homeless persons in the state, including state and local government agencies. Approximately 50 of these agencies are faith based organizations. It is likely that many more faith-based groups assist homeless people.

The table on the next page provides information on the number of emergency shelter and transitional housing beds known to the Homeless Coordination Office that are available for homeless persons in the state.

**Emergency and Transitional Housing Beds  
For Homeless People in Arizona: 2000  
(Excluding winter overflow beds)**

<b>EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>FAMILIES</b>	<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	Apache	0	0	0	0
	Cochise	50	4	24	78
	Coconino	40	5	44	89
	Gila	17	0	0	17
	Graham/Greenlee	24	0	0	24
	La Paz	15	0	5	20
	Maricopa	919	11	663	1,593
	Mohave	20	5	15	40
	Navajo	39	0	3	42
	Pima	236	8	270	514
	Pinal	14	0	0	14
	Santa Cruz	7	0	5	12
	Yavapai	53	5	20	78
	Yuma	22	1	62	85
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,456</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>2,606</b>
<b>TRANSITIONAL HOUSING BEDS</b>	Apache	7	0	0	7
	Cochise	6	0	0	6
	Coconino	12	0	10	22
	Gila	0	0	23	23
	Graham/Greenlee	16	0	0	16
	La Paz	0	0	0	0
	Maricopa	1,815	28	1,385	3,228
	Mohave	10	0	0	10
	Navajo	23	0	0	23
	Pima	565	24	339	928
	Pinal	16	0	1	17
	Santa Cruz	0	0	0	0
	Yavapai	36	4	86	126
	Yuma	16	0	54	70
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>2,522</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>4,476</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,978</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>7,082</b>

## **Statewide Advocacy Organizations**

There are several statewide organizations in Arizona which have at least as part of their mission a concern for homeless people in general or a specific population of homeless people. These include:

### **Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV)**

This coalition was formed in 1980, “to develop a system of networking among domestic violence programs, professional, and interested citizens throughout Arizona. The goals of ACADV are to increase awareness of domestic violence, and to reduce violence in our state.” By definition, residents of domestic violence shelters are considered to be homeless. One of the primary needs of individuals and families in such shelters is transitional and permanent housing.

### **Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness**

This coalition was formed in January 1991. Part of its mission statement states:

“On behalf of homeless people, the Coalition will advocate for more and better emergency, transitional and permanent housing; for an increase in the supply of affordable housing; for an expansion of health care; and for social service policies that enable people to become self-sufficient. The Coalition will participate in the political, economic, and legal processes on behalf of, and in cooperation with, homeless and low-income people.”

### **Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA)**

The Arizona Community Action Association was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1967 in response to a need for a statewide forum to address issues relating to poverty. Through its membership, ACAA brings together public officials, low-income persons, representatives of the private sector and human service providers to share common concerns and to develop strategies to address poverty problems that are statewide rather than local in nature.

### **Arizona Hunger Advisory Council**

This Advisory Council was established by the Arizona Legislature in the Charity Food Bank Act of 1986, and strives to address the issue of hunger and to assist organizations that aid hungry individuals throughout the state.

### **Association of Arizona Food Banks (Aafb)**

The Association of Arizona Food Banks was formed in 1984 that supports a cooperative network of member food banks, food pantries and other organizations that work, cost-effectively and efficiently to collect, store, transport and distribute food to hungry people throughout the state. The Association sees its mission as strengthening communities to build an Arizona where all people are well nourished.

### **Children’s Action Alliance (CAA)**

The Children’s Action Alliance is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the well being of all of Arizona’s children and families. The CAA works to educate the public and policymakers about children’s needs and to promote effective strategies to improve the lives of children and their families.

### **Community Development Coalition of Arizona (CDCA)**

The Community Development Coalition of Arizona (CDCA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that represents Arizona's nonprofit organizations who provide affordable housing, shelter, community development, and continuum of care services. Their mission is to advocate for community development through adequate, safe, decent, fair and affordable housing and a continuum of support services, through; (1) leadership, (2) education and public policy advocacy, (3) capacity building and resource and professional development, and (4) cooperative mission, including for-profit corporations and individuals.

### **Governor's Homeless Trust Fund Oversight Committee**

This Committee is authorized by A.R.S. § 41-2021 (A). The primary task of the Committee is to "establish guidelines for the expenditure of fund monies to provide homeless shelter services."

The Oversight Committee's mission statement is:

"... to provide a focus for statewide activities to eliminate homelessness. These activities include but are not limited to:

1. Establishing guidelines to be used by the Department of Economic Security for the most effective and appropriate use of the Arizona Homeless Trust Fund, with particular emphasis on the needs of homeless families with children;
2. Assessing the needs of homeless persons in Arizona;
3. Identifying the resources being utilized to address the needs of homeless persons; and
4. Overseeing the development and implementation of a statewide plan to break the cycle of homelessness."

### **Homeless Trust Fund Guidelines FY 2001**

- Priority is to be given to families with children, as required by enabling legislation.
- At least two (2) awards should be made, one urban and one rural.
- Providers shall be given maximum flexibility regarding the required 25 percent state match.
- Programs, which seek to empower the families/individuals being served, shall be given additional consideration.
- \$5,000 will be set aside for emergency situations to be determined by the Homeless Trust Fund Oversight Committee.
- Services which may be provided are:
  1. Services related to substance abuse
  2. Services related to mental illness

Agencies, which propose an innovative approach to service delivery or show collaborative commitments from other agencies to provide other support services, shall be given additional consideration.

### **The Arizona Coalition for Human Services (ACHS)**

The Arizona Coalition for Human Services came into existence in 1984 for the purpose of increasing the Legislature's awareness of the growing health, education, and welfare needs of low-income populations that were not being addressed by lawmakers. Since that time, ACHS Task Forces have researched the problems and inadequacies of human service delivery and put forth

recommendations for the Legislature's consideration to assist in the task of developing an economical, efficient system of human services in Arizona. Each year the coalition focuses its efforts on priority concerns that have a major impact on human services across all issue areas.

### **Local Advocacy Organizations**

There are many local groups, agencies and organizations in Arizona that have been advocating for and assisting in developing programs to assist homeless people. The following organizations are listed and described to provide an example of the types of activities local groups have successfully carried out:

#### **Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless (ICH)**

The Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless is composed of a consortium of interfaith congregations and organizations in the Tucson area whose purpose is to address the problems of homelessness within the Tucson community and to develop, coordinate and evaluate programs that permit congregations to serve homeless individuals and families.

#### **Arizona Homeless Veterans Coalition**

The Arizona Homeless Veterans Coalition is an ad hoc group committed to advocacy and improving community services for homeless veterans in Maricopa County. The Coalition first convened in February 1999. It holds monthly meetings that include representatives from the Salvation Army, City of Phoenix, non-profit housing and services groups, the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Medical Center in Phoenix, veterans service organizations, ADOC, DES and HUD. The Coalition has established goals to expand housing resources for veterans, conduct outreach through periodic Stand-Downs, and increase advocacy efforts for homeless veterans.

#### **Phoenix Consortium to End Homelessness**

The Phoenix Consortium to End Homelessness was founded in 1983 in recognition of the need to plan and advocate for a continuum of services that would address the needs of homeless people. Its bi-monthly meetings are attended by service providers in the greater Phoenix area, funding agencies, public sector representatives, and homeless and formerly homeless individuals. The meetings serve as a forum for the identification and resolution of homeless needs. They also create an opportunity for networking among providers, resulting in better coordination of services.

#### **The Phoenix Health Care Coalition for the Homeless**

The Phoenix Health Care Coalition for the Homeless mission is "To improve the physical and mental health of homeless men, women, and children of our Valley." A major responsibility of the Coalition is to recommend how Comic Relief funds allocated to the City of Phoenix should be used. Its adopted Values Statements are:

- A healthy life, more than absence of disease, requires stable living, the ability to satisfy physical and emotional needs, and participation in a healthy and supportive community.
- Health care should be provided to homeless people as part of a broad continuum of care that includes food, clothing, shelter, and the individualized services needed for survival and movement toward self-reliance.

- Self-reliance in homeless people is strengthened when they are allowed to make treatment and service choices for themselves.
- Health services are incomplete if they do not include appropriate efforts to reintegrate people into their families and their community.

### **Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless (TPCH)**

The Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals committed to reducing homelessness and improving the delivery of assistance to those who are homeless in the Tucson metropolitan area. Council membership includes representation of human service providers, religious groups, the business community, homeless advocates, local government and the community-at-large. The specific objectives are to:

1. Develop priorities for improving the homeless services network;
2. Advocate for actions necessary to achieve these goals;
3. Advise local planners and decision-makers regarding most effective uses of available resources;
4. Monitor progress toward developing a more coordinated and effective service delivery system;
5. Explore new strategies for better meeting local needs;
6. Identify significant trends and initiate response to emergent unmet needs; and
7. Create a forum for communication and information sharing among those involved in addressing the problem of homelessness in Tucson.

## **B. Current Efforts**

### **Homeless Youth Intervention Pilot Program**

The Arizona State Legislature allocated \$400,000 to the Department of Economic Security in fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 to establish a homeless youth intervention program by January 1, 2000. DES implemented the Homeless Youth Intervention Program (HYIP) through a contract with Tumbleweed Youth Development Center (Maricopa County) which represents the lead agency for a collaborative service network made up of Our Town Family Service Center (Pima County), and Open-Inn (Pima and Yavapai Counties). The HYIP provides services to homeless youth that are referred based on a screening and assessment by DES and are not currently served by the state child protective services or juvenile justice systems. The focus of the program is to provide 24-hour crisis services, family reunification, job training and employment, assistance in obtaining shelter, transitional and independent living programs, a character education curriculum, and additional services deemed necessary by DES to meet the needs for youth to achieve self-sufficiency.

### **Joint Legislative Committee on Homelessness**

The Joint Legislative Committee on Homelessness was established by Senate Bill 1232 during the 1999 session of the Arizona Legislature. The Committee consists of four appointees from the Senate and four from the House of Representatives, and seven public members, including at least five representing provider agencies. The State Homeless Coordinator from the Department of Economic Security serves as an ex-officio advisor.

The Committee began meeting during the last quarter of 1999. Three study committees made recommendations to the Joint Legislative Committee regarding three priority issues: Homelessness Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and Support Service. A report of the Committee's meetings and recommendations was published in January 2000. The Committee will continue to meet during FY 2001. Senate Bill 1072 extends the authorization of the Committee to continue its work through December 31, 2002.

## **V. RESOURCES**

The DES Homeless Coordination Office publishes an annual list of all known homeless service providers in Arizona. This publication includes contact information as well as the number and array of services available at each agency. (This publication was formerly an appendix to this report. It may be obtained by calling the Homeless Coordination Office at 1-800-582-5706 or 602-542-6600.)

Community Information & Referral, Inc. in Phoenix (800-352-3792 or 602-263-8856) and Information & Referral Services, Inc. in Tucson (520-323-1303) publish several directories, which contain a comprehensive listing of social service organizations in Arizona. The directories provide contact information, the type of services available, and eligibility requirements.

## Summary

The causes of homelessness are complex and not easily identified or quantified. In general, the following are commonly identified conditions that are contributing or co-occurring factors in homelessness:

- Poverty;
- Lack of affordable housing;
- Mental illness;
- Domestic violence; and
- Substance abuse/addictions

At any point in time there are an estimated 30,000 homeless persons in Arizona. Between 5,500 and 6,000 are sheltered at any point in time. It is estimated that at least 60,000 persons in Arizona become homeless for at least one day in a one-year period. In 1999, the Department of Economic Security, Homeless Coordination Office estimated that approximately 20,000 persons were served by emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

There are approximately 2,600 emergency shelter beds and approximately 4,500 transitional housing beds in Arizona. The number of transitional housing beds is increasing at a faster rate than emergency shelter beds. The number of persons turned away by programs every day continues to be in the hundreds.

Federal funds constitute the greatest percentage of funding for homeless programs. Funding for emergency shelter, particularly for single individuals, is the most difficult to obtain.

While the economic environment in Arizona is good and unemployment is low, the number of homeless people continues to increase and the resources are inadequate to meet the needs. As noted in this report, homelessness is a complex issue requiring a comprehensive and coordinated approach at local, state and federal levels.